



Position Statement

Colorado EMT Certification Concerns

Adopted March 10, 2004 by the

Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, Inc.

On behalf of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals of Colorado we would like to express our shock and deep disappointment at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification issues that have recently come to light. Our association knows better than anyone the commitment the Pre-Hospital Care Program has made to the welfare of the citizens of Colorado, and know that these recent issues should not, in any way, detract from the dedication and commitment proven daily by the vast majority of program staff.

We understand that every effort is being made to determine the scope and magnitude of EMT certification concerns and encourage the continuation of these efforts. EMTs throughout Colorado enjoy an extraordinary level of public trust in their communities and it is essential that the integrity of their certification process be upheld. We trust you will not rest until all current certifications are appropriately verified, and further join you in the hopes that a very small number of certifications will prove to be problematic. We also expect you to be open and forthright with information as it becomes known to our constituents, fellow stakeholders, government officials and the general public.

In regards to our membership, we expect that in the event certifications that were wrongly denied will be granted with apology. We further expect that any EMTs inappropriately issued certifications will have them suspended until such time that they prove, through re-testing, that they are entitled to the public trust at their EMT level. Finally, we believe that any individual that was inappropriately granted certification at an advanced EMT level, without appropriate training, and who did not inform the Department, has participated in an inexcusable deception of the public we serve. Any individuals in this category should be dealt with severely up to and including permanent denial of EMT certification.

We understand that department policy and state personnel rules will dictate acceptable personnel actions related to this matter. However, we believe that the integrity of both your Department, and our profession requires that if any individual(s) are found to have willfully jeopardized the public health and safety be denied the privilege of employment by the citizens of the State of Colorado. Simply shuffling employees within the Department dishonors the integrity and competence of the hundreds of public employees that routinely serve the EMS profession, and all citizens of the State, with distinction.

The EMS Association of Colorado is committed to ensuring a valid and reliable EMT certification program and stands ready to assist the Department in any way possible.

The Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado is a not-for-profit society of emergency medical service professionals, founded in 1973. EMSAC is involved in many facets of EMS, with three primary missions, to:

- *Advocate,*
- *Communicate*
- *and Educate.*

Membership of more than 3,000 comprises paramedic-, intermediate- and basic-level EMTs, EMS first responders, physicians and nurses; and emergency dispatchers, medical educators and researchers and EMS training institutions.

Members are both paid and volunteer professionals, from the urban centers of the state as well as our wide open rural and frontier regions. Our members serve with ambulance services, fire departments, search and rescue teams and ski patrols; and in hospitals, industrial plants, dispatch centers and the military.

